



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 217

LCO No. 1216

01216_____GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING CHALLENGERS AS POLLING PLACE OFFICIALS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 9-232 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2012*):

4 (a) [Each registrar may appoint one or more challengers in his town
5 or district, one of whom may be present at the offering of any vote; and
6 any such challenger or any] Any elector may challenge the right of any
7 person offering to vote, on the ground of want of identity with the
8 person on whose name the vote is offered, or disfranchisement or lack
9 of bona fide residence, and the moderator shall decide upon the right
10 of the person so challenged to vote.

11 Sec. 2. Section 9-235d of the general statutes is repealed and the
12 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2012*):

13 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of sections 9-233, 9-235 and 9-
14 258, as amended by this act, to the contrary, a United States citizen

15 who is sixteen or seventeen years of age and a bona fide resident of a
 16 town may be (1) appointed as [a challenger or] an unofficial checker in
 17 an election, or (2) appointed as a checker, translator or voting tabulator
 18 tender in an election after (A) attending poll worker training, and (B)
 19 receiving the written permission of a parent, guardian or the principal
 20 of the school that the citizen attends if the citizen is a secondary school
 21 student and the citizen is to be appointed to work on a day when such
 22 school is in session.

23 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of section 9-436, as amended by
 24 this act, or 9-436a to the contrary, a United States citizen who is sixteen
 25 or seventeen years of age and a bona fide resident of a town or political
 26 subdivision holding a primary may be (1) appointed as a [challenger
 27 or] candidate checker in the primary, or (2) appointed as a checker,
 28 translator or voting tabulator tender in a primary after (A) attending
 29 poll worker training, and (B) receiving the written permission of a
 30 parent, guardian or the principal of the school that the citizen attends
 31 if the citizen is a secondary school student and the citizen is to be
 32 appointed to work on a day when such school is in session.

33 Sec. 3. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-258 of the 2012
 34 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
 35 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2012*):

36 (a) For municipalities with more than one voting district, the
 37 election officials of each polling place shall be electors of the state and
 38 shall consist of one moderator, at least one, but not more than two
 39 official checkers, two assistant registrars of voters of opposite political
 40 parties, each of whom shall be residents of the town, [not more than
 41 two challengers if the registrars of voters have appointed challengers
 42 pursuant to section 9-232,] and at least one and not more than two
 43 ballot clerks and at least one but not more than two voting tabulator
 44 tenders for each voting tabulator in use at the polling place. A known
 45 candidate for any office shall not serve as an election official on
 46 election day or serve at the polls in any capacity, except that a

47 municipal clerk or a registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same
48 office, may perform his or her official duties. If, in the opinion of the
49 registrar of voters, the public convenience of the electors in any voting
50 district so requires, provision shall be made for an additional line or
51 lines of electors at the polling place and, if more than one line of
52 electors is established, at least one but not more than two additional
53 official checkers and at least one but not more than two ballot clerks
54 for each line of electors shall be appointed and, if more than one
55 tabulator is used in a polling place, at least one and not more than two
56 additional voting tabulator tenders shall be appointed for each
57 additional machine so used. Head moderators, central counting
58 moderators and absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law
59 shall also be deemed election officials.

60 (b) For municipalities with one voting district, the election officials
61 of such polling place shall be electors of the state and shall consist of
62 one moderator, at least one, but not more than two official checkers,
63 [not more than two challengers if the registrars of voters have
64 appointed challengers pursuant to section 9-232,] at least one and not
65 more than two voting tabulator tenders for each voting tabulator in
66 use at the polling place and at least one but not more than two ballot
67 clerks. Additionally, such election officials may consist of two
68 registrars of voters of opposite political parties, or two assistant
69 registrars of voters of opposite political parties, as the case may be,
70 subject to the requirements of sections 9-259 and 9-439, provided if the
71 registrars of voters are present in the polling place, they shall appoint
72 at least one designee to be present in their office. A known candidate
73 for any office shall not serve as an election official on election day or
74 serve at the polls in any capacity, except that a municipal clerk or a
75 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, may perform
76 his or her official duties. If, in the opinion of the registrar of voters, the
77 public convenience of the electors in any voting district so requires,
78 provision shall be made for an additional line or lines of electors at the
79 polling place and, if more than one line of electors is established, at
80 least one, but not more than two, additional official checkers for each

81 line of electors shall be appointed and, if more than one tabulator is
82 used in a polling place, at least one and not more than two additional
83 voting tabulator tenders shall be appointed for each additional
84 tabulator so used. Head moderators, central counting moderators and
85 absentee ballot counters appointed pursuant to law shall be deemed to
86 be election officials.

87 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 9-436 of the 2012 supplement to the
88 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
89 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2012*):

90 (c) The registrar shall appoint from among the enrolled party
91 members in the municipality or political subdivision holding the
92 primary, as the case may be, to serve in each polling place, the primary
93 polling place officials, who shall consist of one moderator, at least one,
94 but not more than two official checkers, not more than two
95 [challengers] if he deems it necessary, and at least one and not more
96 than two ballot clerks and at least one but not more than two voting
97 tabulator tenders for each tabulator in use at such primary and, in
98 towns with two or more voting districts at least one and not more than
99 two assistant registrars, provided (1) in the case of a political
100 subdivision holding a primary, if no enrolled party member who
101 resides in the political subdivision and who is a certified moderator
102 consents to serve as a moderator, the registrar may appoint any
103 enrolled party member who resides in the municipality and is a
104 certified moderator to be moderator, (2) in the case of either a
105 municipality or a political subdivision holding a primary, if no
106 enrolled party member can be found or no such person consents to
107 serve as a moderator, the registrar may appoint any elector who
108 resides in the municipality and is a certified moderator to be
109 moderator, (3) in the case of a political subdivision holding a primary,
110 if an insufficient number of enrolled party members who reside in the
111 political subdivision consent to serve as checkers, [challengers,] voting
112 tabulator tenders or assistant registrars, the registrar may appoint any
113 enrolled party member who resides in the municipality to be a checker,

114 [challenger,] voting tabulator tender or assistant registrar, (4) in the
 115 case of either a municipality or a political subdivision holding a
 116 primary, if a sufficient number of enrolled party members cannot be
 117 found or do not consent to serve in a position described in subdivision
 118 (3) of this subsection, the registrar may appoint any elector who
 119 resides in the municipality to any such position, and (5) in the case of
 120 either a municipality or a political subdivision holding more than one
 121 primary on the same day for different political parties, one certified
 122 moderator may serve as moderator for both primaries, if the registrars
 123 of voters so agree. If unaffiliated electors are authorized under section
 124 9-431 to vote for some but not all of the offices to be contested at the
 125 primary, the registrar shall appoint two additional checkers to check
 126 the list of unaffiliated electors who are authorized to vote on the
 127 separate tabulators. If unaffiliated electors are authorized under
 128 section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties in the same
 129 polling place, whether for some or for all offices to be contested at the
 130 primary, each such registrar shall appoint two additional checkers to
 131 check the list of unaffiliated electors who are authorized to vote in
 132 either such primary.

| | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2012</i> | 9-232(a) |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2012</i> | 9-235d |
| Sec. 3 | <i>July 1, 2012</i> | 9-258(a) and (b) |
| Sec. 4 | <i>July 1, 2012</i> | 9-436(c) |

Statement of Purpose:

To eliminate the position of challenger as a polling place official.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]